



Price of a barrel  
of petroleum

**US\$ 71.42**

↓0.16

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

## INDECENT DRESSING



A Sudanese activist march in support to Lubna Hussein, who faces a punishment of 40 lashes on the charge of "indecent dressing." Tuesday Aug. 4, 2009, outside a Khartoum court where Hussein is going on trial for wearing trousers in public, a violation of the country's strict Islamic laws. Arabic slogan read as "Lubna case, is all women case".

See International News

SPORTS NEWS

## BRAUN -Y



Milwaukee Brewers' Ryan Braun hits a three-run home run during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, Monday, Aug. 3, 2009, in Los Angeles.

See Sports Today on Page B11

# Hard Rock Café Aruba pays tribute to Michael Jackson



PALM BEACH – This past weekend, Hard Rock Café hosted a tribute to the legendary pop star Michael Jackson. A talented crew of dancers and DJ's created the perfect show for all that came to enjoy and pay tribute to the recently gone to heaven star. The turn out was absolutely insane.

Continued on Pages 8 & 9



## Aruba Gastronomic Assoc. announces 1st annual Golf Tourney



DIVI LINKS - Hit the greens at Divi Links on August 8, 2009, for the Aruba Gastronomic Association's first annual Golf Tournament. Come and share good times with colleagues, friends and visitors in a fundraising event for AGA, now celebrating its 16th anniversary. This two-person scramble

18-hole tournament begins at 9:30 am and features various categories of play as well as a closing party at Mulligan's. Participation fee is US \$ 90.00 (afls 160) per person. Prizes include weekend stays at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club, Hyatt Resort, Manchebo Beach Resort and Westin Aruba Resort, as well

as dinners at Pirates' Nest, Aqua Grill, Driftwood, Pure Beach, French Steak House, Texas de Brazil and Sunset Grille, and a Setar cell phone and Mandara Spa massage. Sponsors include TEC (Polar and Polar Ice), Tropical Bottling Company Aruba (AWA), and Aruba Trading Company.

To register, please call Divi Links Golf Pro Shop (tel. 581-GOLF) or contact James Kiley, Golf Pro, at tel. 735-5419.

Join in for a fun day of golfing!

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*Get Your Groove on with the Aruba Marriott and Save*

## Earth, Wind and Fire to headline two-day music event in Aruba



**PALM BEACH** – The 8th annual Aruba Music Festival will take place on October 9th and 10th and Aruba Marriott Resort is helping tourists get in on the act with free tickets to the headline performance Earth, Wind and Fire on Saturday, October 10th. Guests who book a Garden View Guest Room for a minimum of four nights



will receive two free tickets for Preferred Seating at the Saturday evening concert; and guests who book an Ocean/Pool View Room will receive two Golden Circle tickets to the concert - the best seats in the house at the Aruba Entertainment Center. Package is valid on four-night stays with arrival on October 7th or 8th. On Friday, October 9th, Latin Grammy winner Fonseca and International music icon Paulina Rubio will perform to kick off the Festival. An Aruba Music Festival desk will be set up in the lobby of the resort to assist with transportation to/from the show and to sell individual tickets. The festival

is the perfect chance to enjoy a long holiday weekend at the Aruba Marriott with Columbus Day falling on Monday, October 12th. Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 newly renovated guestrooms – the most spacious on the island and each with large, private balconies overlooking lush landscape and the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while a 6,500 square-foot Mandara spa, freeform swimming pool with cascading waterfalls, the largest casino in Aruba and high energy health club offer entertaining diversions. □

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# Paradera Park Apartments Aruba launches new website



PARADERA - "Following a period of property expansion and additional improvements Paradera Park Apartments commissioned the development of a completely new and contemporary website,

which launched on August 3, 2009". Paradera Park's new website features a completely new layout and the inclusion of interesting new developments in the field of website design enhancing

consumer usability and brand experience.

The site has improved accessibility and a layout which makes navigation as easy as possible for the website visitor.

Completely new and appealing photography has been incorporated, whereas website design and hosting has been professionally taken care of by Carib Media.

As stated by Debby de Weerd, Operations Director of the property, Paradera Park's mission of providing high quality accommodation and services at affordable prices will now be even better communicated to travelers by this important and rejuvenated advertising tool.

The website can be found under [www.paraderapark-aruba.com](http://www.paraderapark-aruba.com). □



### Appetizer

- Fish Soup
- Onion Soup
- Conch Fritters
- Escargot
- Salad

### Entrée

- **Fresh Catch of the Day**  
prepared by our local chef just the way you like it.
- **Jumbo Shrimp** from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine.
- **Filet Mignon** 8 oz. US Tenderloin
- **Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast**

### Dessert

- Chocolate or Banana Cake
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**3-course dinner  
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\* This special cannot be used with any other promotions, vouchers or certificates.



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**Monday** Seafood Sampler

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**Wednesday** An island favorite - BBQ night

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*Dick to replace Rhuggenaath,*

# Magaly Jacoba new Minister of Justice

WILLEMSTAD--Antillean Minister of Justice David Dick (PAR) will step down to replace Eugene Rhuggenaath, who resigned last week Thursday, as Curaçao Commissioner of Tourism, Labour and Economic Affairs. Succeeding Dick as Justice Minister will be Curaçao's Acting Lt. Governor Magaly Jacoba (also PAR), while Anthony Hollander (41) will take over Rhuggenaath's seat in the Island Council. PAR chairman Glenn Sulvaran said the party had chosen to replace Rhuggenaath as quickly

as possible, also to avoid speculation. The fact that the PAR/PNP/FOL coalition has only a minimal majority of 11 seats in the 21-seat Island Council played a role as well.

Dick, who had been Commissioner of Government Companies and later Finance in the past, said he had been called upon in the interest of the island "and I'm a team player. We have a team with some good players and I'm glad the party sees me as someone who can be put in several positions."

Sulvaran said someone

with experience had been needed to deal with the ailing Curaçao dry-dock CDM and Curaçao Airport Holding (CAH), among others, and who could go to work right away.

Sulvaran said Jacoba, Acting Lt. Governor since 2007, was the best candidate. "She has been Acting Lt. Governor a few years already, and assists the Prime Minister in the policy area. She has also witnessed Council of Ministers meetings and worked with Dick."

Because Hollander, currently the PAR Antillean

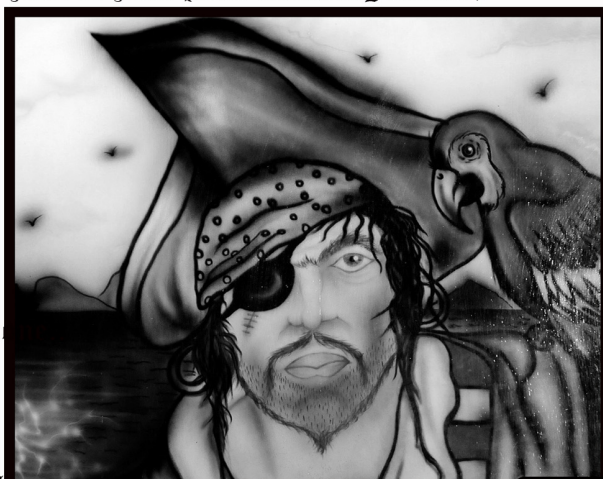


## Buccaneer Restaurant

Aruba's Legendary Buccaneer Restaurant, serving the freshest fish and seafood from the sea to your to your plate including steaks, duck, poultry and pasta dishes.

Whether you come with the whole family, bring a group of friends, or enjoy for a romantic dinner for two, Buccaneer has the high quality service and fresh, flavorful international dishes that will make your dining experience a memorable one. For reservations email us at [info@buccaneeraruba.com](mailto:info@buccaneeraruba.com) or call 586-6172

Monday - Saturday 5:30-10 pm



Ahoy Matey bring this ad in for a free glass of house wine



Parliament faction assistant, takes over Rhuggenaath's Island Council seat based on his spot on the candidate list for the 2007 elections, Dick becomes a non-Island Council member commissioner.

This means PNP had to give up its option of having a commissioner who is not in the Island Council, to comply with the Islands Regulation ERNA, which states that at least half of the commissioners must be Island Council members

as well. PNP had not been using that option anyway, as Commissioner Humphrey Davelaar is also in the Island Council.

Nevertheless, PNP received the new Acting Lt. Governor in exchange. The name of former Island Council Member Gisette Seferina, who had stepped down temporarily last year for health reasons and had been replaced as such by Davelaar, has been mentioned



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*Very successful meetings were held*

## AVP meets with Carnival Cruises, American Airlines and Valero

ORANJESTAD – A delegation of the AVP party led by Mike Eman, with Mike de Meza, Otmar Oduber and Michelle Winklaar had a very successful meeting last Friday in Miami with Carnival Cruise Lines and American Airlines. The goal of this meeting was to either gain the interest of potential partners for Aruba again or for them to continue their stay in Aruba. Following the alarming developments in the relationship between Aruba and a number of its most important trading partners, the AVP took the initiative to talk to these partners. As it is known, both Carnival Cruise Lines and American Airlines, as well as KLM have taken Aruba off their routes, as their destination. In addition, Valero has recently shut down its refinery and has announced that they will evaluate their situation to see whether they will remain in Aruba or not. Therefore this AVP delegation led by Mike Eman, held talks with representatives of American Airlines and Carnival Cruise Lines.

Carnival Cruise Lines said, in the meeting with the AVP delegation, that they took Aruba off their ABC-route due to the high fuel prices. Party leader, Mike Eman: "We are very pleased that Carnival will likely be visiting Aruba at least 16 times next year. They told us that they are open for more visits, but are waiting for a proposal from the - probably new - government regarding the fuel problem." Carnival Cruises was surprised that the Aruban government did contact them when they stopped coming to Aruba.

American A suspended eight flights to Aruba this year. American never heard anything from Aruba after suspending their flights. Eman: "American told us in our meeting that they will consider including the eight flights again in their schedule, but that is not going to happen before the end of September. American expressed its appreciation for the way in which AVP approached them and in holding an open discussion with the delegation.

The AVP plans to meet again with KLM representatives to convince them to include Aruba back into their flight schedule. The party also has ongoing conversations with Valero. The party believes that the relationship with these and other trading partners are important for the future of Aruba. The AVP is trying to make a new start with these companies. □



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Aruba TODAY

**Don't drink &**

**DRIVE**





At The Westin Resort, Aruba

# Top performers on the job applauded



**PALM BEACH** - Recently, all associates and management of The Westin Resort, Aruba were invited to attend a special luncheon in the resort's Cabaret Royale in honor of the nominees for Brand Champion of the Month for June.

The Brand Champion of the Month nominees were tapped by management for exemplifying Westin's core values including providing personal touches and personalized services to 'surprise and delight' every guest, proactively anticipating guests' needs and making them feel special, and recognizing the special touches offered by Westin to help guests restore the body, expand the mind, and elevate the spirit so they leave not only rested, but also renewed and enriched.

The nominated associates are recognized for inspiring their co-workers and making the extra efforts to improve their departments and go above and beyond expectations.

During a beautiful lunch buffet spread produced by the Westin's culinary and banquet teams, the following were named top of the class: From Heart of the House for June-Noella Brown, from the Accounting Department, for building a culture of trust and credibility with her fellow associates and Westin vendors; from Front of the House for June-Marguerita Oemar, from Service Express, for her amazing progress with the resort in just one year and her ability to interact with both her coworkers and guests to make them feel special.

Pictured here are the nominees and winners with General Manager Richard Roy. □



In honor of the resort's 50th anniversary



*Proudly presents*

## 59' Retro Menu

Iceberg Wedge Salad

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Beef Wellington

Dwight D. Eisenhower's favorite  
OR

Old Fashioned Seafood casserole  
Immortalized by Julia Child

...

Banana Foster A La New Orleans,  
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**\$50.00 p.p.**

Plus 15% service charge & sales tax

**FREE BOTTLE** of house wine with minimum 2 people  
per table ordering the Retro menu

For more information call  
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SunsetGrilleAruba.com







“Early Bird: daily 5-7pm  
3-course dinner  
for \$29.75 per person”

## Experience Papillon's gripping story! Introducing a catching special for the early Birds

PALM BEACH – Henri Charrière, one of the world's most famous prisoners, would surely have had the time of his life at Papillon Restaurant in The Village, across from the Radisson Resort. Nicknamed Papillon because of the butterfly tattoo on his chest, the Frenchman was the first convict to escape from Devil's Island, something that nobody had ever done before. Charrière's thrilling, gripping...

auto-biography has been the concept behind Papillon Restaurant. The décor, the decorations and especially the restrooms wink at the thirteen terrible years Papillon spent in prison in French Guyana. Papillon restaurant's menu reflects the Frenchman's arduous journey to freedom: classic French dishes have been dusted with daring Caribbean flair and are a culinary journey for your taste buds. The spacious outside terrace is perfect for casual fine dining; the iron bars, flecks of rust and stains on the walls make one very glad not to be in Papillon's shoes in the 1940's! Charrière would undoubtedly have loved 'his' place on Aruba: this is luxury living for anyone!

### Early Bird

Papillon Restaurant offers a daily Early Bird special. A delicious 3-course meal with a glass of house wine for just \$29.75 per person between 5pm and 7pm

### Opening hours

Papillon's opening hours are from 5 pm until midnight. The restaurant's daily specials will be explained by the staff. For reservations, please call 586 5400 or go to [www.papillonaruba.com](http://www.papillonaruba.com).

Papillon Restaurant is located in The Village, just across from the Radisson Resort.



## Café de Pijp opens its doors at South Beach Center – Palm Beach!

*Bring this article for a FREE Heineken draft beer per person*



PALM BEACH - Last week, Café de Pijp officially inaugurated its authentic “**OLD HOLLANDS CAFÉ**” conveniently located at the South Beach Center in Palm Beach opposite Segafredo. Café de Pijp has been operating since June 19th and has now made the opening official with various members of the press and guests. All guests received a warm welcome from the management in a nice and cozy ambiance with entertainment of the band The Equator.

Café de Pijp has been designed and founded by Mr. Alex de Haan. He has a

lot of experience with this kind of specific Oud Hollands Café in the Netherlands. The interior of Café de Pijp, which is almost 60 m<sup>2</sup>, has been constructed with dark wood materials which give the ambiance a very cozy and warm feeling.

They play all kinds of music, from Dutch, to English to Latin American. Every day you can enjoy the peanut consumption with your favorite drink. This peanut concept “Pelpinda's” is a typical Dutch custom, where the guests of the Dutch bar peel their peanuts and throw the shells on the floor and enjoy doing it! When entering the Dutch bar and encountering all the peanut shells on the floor, don't be surprised, as this is one of the most common custom for a typical Old Dutch Bar in the Netherlands.

Café de Pijp will have several activities programmed for its guests in the near future. These activities include Dart competitions among other cafes and guests, Karaoke nights, Jazz nights and Salsa nights. **Café de Pijp serves delicious snacks for its guests and invites their customers to enjoy these snacks free of charge on Friday afternoons.** Café de Pijp will also have their “Pijpjesavond” where one can buy beer at a very inexpensive price. Café de Pijp will also offer



a special drink of the week for the non beer drinkers. **Heineken draught beer will have a price of only AWG 5,- every day.**

For one month Café de Pijp will have a special Grand Opening offer in newspapers. Bring the newspaper ad and get a FREE Heineken draught beer with this ad per person. Do not miss this special offer, just bring it to Café de Pijp and enjoy your FREE beer in a typical “**OLD HOLLANDS CAFÉ**” Café

de Pijp offers its customers very attractive consumption prices compared to other bars in the vicinity, a great ambiance and LIVE entertainment by Alex as well!

**We invite you to visit us at the South Beach Center and experience the fun yourself! For more information please call us at 745-4706.**





## Hard Rock Café Aruba pays tribute to Michael Jackson



Hard Rock Aruba offers a brand new Café on the Palm Beach hotel strip with a 360 plus seating capacity in our indoor dining room or outside terrace, a live music stage, and Rock Shop filled with our famous collectibles. Priceless memorabilia ranging from world famous artists like the Beach Boys

to more contemporary rockers like Metallica adorns our walls, and our friendly staff waits, to transform you into raving Hard Rock Aruba fans with cocktails and specialties from the world famous menu.

~ Photos by Julia Renfro

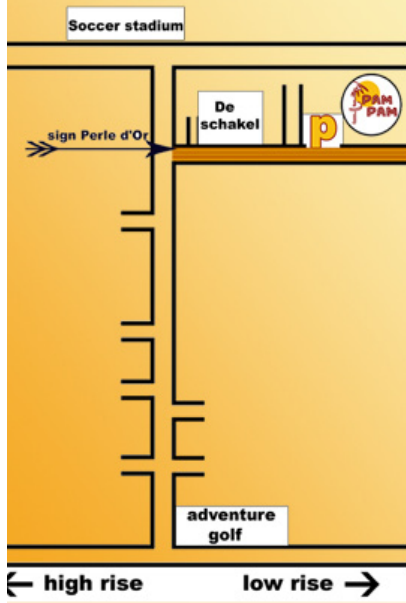




# Pam Pam Restaurant

save money  
4 course menu  
\$ 23.-





Located in the charming tropical enverions of the Perle d'Or resort, the Pam Pam restaurant offers a peek at Aruba's cunucu (countryside) while still being conveniently located close to all of Aruba's prime resorts. Firts-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced.

Pam Pam has the biggest menu with a choice from 26 main-couses, **all priced between \$ 13 / \$ 23**

no service charge

Pam Pam 's house specialty is a unique method of preperation, wich presently at Aruba is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their "gourmet meal. **Priced \$ 20 and \$ 27**

A grill and a collection of fresh ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providin a unique and personal taste treat.

It is suggested that reservation for this singular dining experience be made before 3 p.m

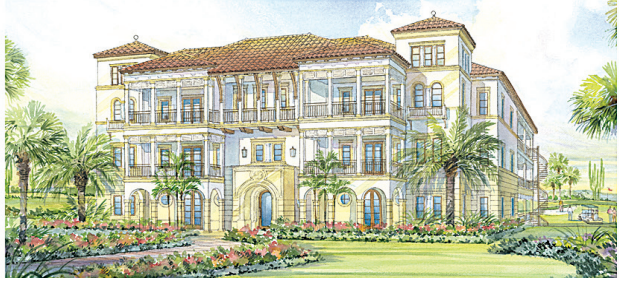
Or ask for our special priced 4 course menu , **now only \$ 23**

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*From England to Aruba*

# Janet & Richard vow their love



**OCCIDENTAL GRAND-** Janet Mansfield & Richard Scott of Lincolnshire, England were married on July 28, 2009 at Occidental Resort. The lovebirds are both teachers and met four years ago after meeting at the school where they currently work. They are both sports enthusiasts, which love cross country running;

Richard plays Rugby Football and Janet plays netball. Through the mutual love of sports they connected and their relationship began. The beginning of 2009, Richard proposed his love to Janet to become his wife. They started planning their ideal wedding on the beautiful Caribbean island of Aruba.

Janet & Richard were pleased with Kimberly Dammerman, wedding coordinator at Occidental Grand Resort who arranged all the wedding details to perfection.

The beach ceremony took place at Occidental Resort's pristine beach with Richard's children and their partners as well as Janet's children who witnessed the union of marriage. Their special day had a gorgeous sunset in the horizon that made for a perfect backdrop for Bella Aruba Photography to capture the evening as it unfolded.

The dinner reception was held at L'Olio Italian Restaurant at the resort overlooking the starlit night.

The wedding party of nine thoroughly enjoyed their vacation in Aruba and all it had to offer.

"We all agree we don't want



it to end, we have had a great wedding-moon with our children by our side and a perfect paradise vacation to

always remember", stated the newlweds. □

*Photos by Angela Munzenhofer*







By: Dr Carlos Viana

Jack and Jill are friends. Jack owes money to nearly everyone in the neighborhood. Because of Jack's financial problems he has no credit. Jack's friend, Jill always pays her bills, therefore owes no money. However, Jill uses her credit cards to pay her debts. Because Jill seems to have great credit, companies keep sending her more credit cards. Jill has even started paying her credit card bills using new credit cards.

Jill appears to be better off financially than her friend Jack, who lives from paycheck to paycheck. Both handle their debts differently, but both have the same problem, spending more money than they earn. There is a growing medical problem like that. Symbolically Jack and Jill represent individuals who are not choosing the food and lifestyles that promote health.

For example, Jack, the friend with the bad credit is like people who acquire type 2 diabetes. In Type 2 Diabetes, glucose does not enter the cells where it can be converted to necessary energy for the body. Instead the glucose (a basic sugar) starts building piling up in the blood, like increasing bad debts. I say debts, because there are consequences with diabetes that eventually need to be paid. Consequences of Diabetes include: Heart Disease and Stroke, Nerve Damage, Eye Disease, Erectile Dysfunction, Kidney Disease, and Stomach Damage. The list goes on. Everybody knows how devastating bad credit and diabetes can be.

## Managing your Debt

Meanwhile, Jill looks like she is the picture of financial health; but, appearances can be deceiving. Jill is like many people that are happy that her blood tests always show a "normal" amount of glucose. Phew! No diabetes. But some people's bodies are actually managing their high blood glucose levels by producing more and more insulin. In these individuals, high glucose appears to be balanced because of high insulin. However, normalizing glucose at the expense of producing high amounts of insulin is like paying for your health with maxed out credit cards. Eventually, the credit will dry up and the debt that must be paid can be disastrous.

Produced in your pancreas, insulin is the bus that helps glucose travel into your cells where this sugar gets converted into energy. If the bus is full, it can't pick up any more glucose. A full Insulin Bus is like blocked like credit cards that have reached their limit. Consequently, your pancreas, sensing an increase in glucose in your blood produces more and more insulin. This is called Insulin Resistance.

An increasingly high blood insulin level, hyperinsulemia causes several problems: one of them is high blood pressure. Insulin also causes the retention of sodium (salt), which causes fluid retention, which causes high blood pressure and congestive heart failure. A recent study showed that overweight children

with high levels of insulin in their blood are also likely to have high levels of homocysteine, a substance which appears to raise the risk of heart disease, stroke, and birth defects.

Osteoporosis is another potential problem resulting from insulin resistance. Insulin is a master hormone which controls other hormones such as growth hormone, testosterone, and progesterone. Bone is built upon the command of such hormones. When these hormones are reduced, bone building is reduced. Insulin also increases cellular growth. More insulin helps grow more cells, even cancer. There are studies which show a strong connection to breast and colon cancers with high insulin levels.

High levels of insulin may be caused by a tumor of the pancreas, impaired liver function, or endocrine disorders. Vigorous and sustained exercise, pregnancy, breastfeeding, or eating the wrong food for your metabolic type are all causes of an insulin/glucose imbalance. Among diabetics, hyperinsulinism is known as insulin shock, or hypoglycemia, and may occur as a result of treating themselves with an accidental overdose of insulin.

In individuals with normal glucose, but with high insulin levels, the glucose is there in the blood, but hiding behind all the excess insulin. Hidden sugar, like hiding your debts in mounting credit card debts are big problems waiting to happen. Your pancreas, after years of having to

overproduce insulin, revolts and stops producing any insulin; the diagnosis then becomes Type 2 Diabetes. Blood test results that measure both fasting blood glucose levels together with insulin are entered into a formula that can determine the amount of insulin resistance a person has. Checking blood glucose only, without checking insulin cannot show if your body is balanced. Your doctor should always check insulin together with glucose and use a medical ratio to assess your Insulin Resistance risk.

Although, medical researchers have studied and known about Insulin Resistance for years, conditions that do not have a specific pharmaceutical drug or surgical treatment are not routinely screened by medical doctors. The symptoms of Insulin Resistance are so varied and include, fatigue, brain foginess, dizziness, problems sleeping, headaches, depression, stomach problems, pain, allergies, high cholesterol, high blood pressure and so many more that the symptoms are usually treated separately and not looked at as one part of the same problem. Like Jack and Jill's money problems, many of the problems listed here come from the same beginnings. Insulin Resistance is a predictor of many health problems to come, especially Type 2 Diabetes.

Get The Point! Many drugs are being used to treat the many effects of insulin resistance. Studies show diet, exercise and lifestyle reduce risk of Diabetes Type 2. Drinking lots of water and eliminating foods with



gluten and high fructose corn syrup are the first place to start reducing your insulin resistance risk. A Clinical Nutritionist specializes in food and healthy lifestyle counseling. Call for help in managing you're your insulin/glucose debt.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: [www.vianaheal.com](http://www.vianaheal.com) NEW HOURS: Mon. afternoons at Rejuvenate Medi-Spa, 5 min. from the hotels!

101 Great Ways to Improve YOUR HEALTH, 101 Expert Health tips, Inc. a chapter by "Aruba's Barefoot Doctor." Available at Viana Center, Hotel Gift Shops & Bookstores. THE DOCTOR IS OPEN ALL VACATION FOR YOUR HEALTH. □



# Get the Point!



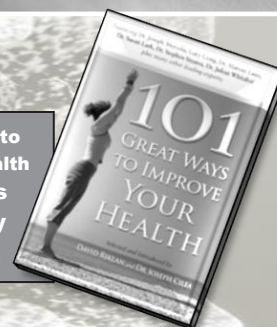
**Kibaima 7**  
(Opposite the Drive In)

with Aruba's Barefoot Doctor, **Dr. Carlos Viana**,  
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# Mozambicans protest overhaul of HIV care



A man creates an AIDS awareness ribbon. Hundreds of protesters took to the street in Mozambique's capital to protest health ministry policies that they say are jeopardizing HIV care in one of the world's worst affected countries.

(AFP/File/Toru yamanaka)

MAPUTO (AFP) – Hundreds of protesters took to the street in Mozambique's capital Monday to protest health ministry policies that they say are jeopardizing HIV care in one of the world's worst affected countries.

The protesters marched to the health ministry, where they handed a letter to minister Ivo Garrido demanding better treatment and more privacy for patients with HIV, which affects 16 percent of adult Mozambicans.

Health authorities closed specialised HIV centres this year, blending treatment into the broader healthcare system, saying that the separate centres contributed to stigma surrounding the disease.

But activists say the closures were followed by a dramatic drop in patients seeking treatment.

HIV patients have special green health insurance cards that immediately reveal their status to other patients in general clinics, the activists argue.

"Due to the decision of closing the (day hospitals), there are more and more people who abandon the treatment; the number of deaths are increasing; the compliance to the treatment is decreasing; discrimination against people affected by HIV/Aids is dramatically increasing," march organisers said in a statement.

Christian Reed, a medical

anthropologist studying HIV treatment in Mozambique, said the number of patients seeking treatment in Pemba, in the north, dropped from about 50 to three or four a day after the local day hospital closed.

"The ones who don't want their families to know are not coming," Reed said.

"Access to services is more difficult now," Reed added.

"Where you used to have a hospital full of HIV specialists ... now everybody's mixed together." Health authorities announced the closure of the day hospitals in February. Non-governmental organisation workers say the move was also meant to free up a ratio of one doctor for every 23,000 people. □

## FDA: Arthritis drugs pose cancer risk to children

By MATTHEW PERRONE,  
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON – Federal regulators on Tuesday added stronger warnings to a group of best-selling drugs used to treat arthritis and other inflammatory diseases, saying they can increase the risk of cancer in children and adolescents.

After more than a year of review, Food and Drug Administration scientists said the drugs appear to increase

the risk of cancer after they are used beyond 2 1/2 years. The agency studied several dozen reports of cancer in children taking the drugs, some of which were fatal. Half of the cases were lymphomas, a cancer that attacks the immune system. The drugs are known as tumor necrosis factor blockers and work by neutralizing a protein that, when overproduced, causes inflammation and damage to bones, cartilage and other tissue. The drugs

are prescribed to children with rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disorder and Crohn's disease.

The FDA will bolster the "black box" warning on the five drugs sold in the U.S., including Abbott Laboratories' Humira, Johnson & Johnson's Remicade and Simponi, and Enbrel which is co-marketed by Amgen Inc. and Wyeth. All the products are multibillion-dollar sellers. Enbrel was the biggest moneymaker of the group with sales of \$3.4 billion last year.

The action also affects Belgian drugmaker UCB's Cimzia, which launched in May.

Shares of North Chicago-based Abbott Laboratories and New Brunswick, N.J.-based J&J fell after the FDA announcement.

Along with updating the drugs' labels, the FDA is requiring companies to add information about cancer risks to the medication guides given to patients. The FDA said it is also working with the manufacturers to further define the scope of the cancer risk. J&J said in a statement it "will coordinate closely with the FDA to ensure that health care providers, patients and caregivers are properly informed." Amgen and Wyeth said they will continue working with regulators to evaluate "the potential risks and benefits" of their drug. □

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# Investors nudge rally forward with small gains



Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange in New York, Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009.

By SARA LEPRO and TIM PARADIS,  
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Having sprinted higher for three weeks, the stock market is taking a break.

Investors made few big moves Tuesday after stocks rocketed 14 percent in just 16 days. The market closed with modest gains as many traders held their positions and looked toward the Labor Department's employment report on Friday.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 34 points. On Monday, the blue chips jumped 115 points and the Standard & Poor's 500 index nosed above 1,000 for the first time in nine months.

Tuesday's mostly upbeat news helped prevent the market's pause from turning into the type of slide that can follow big jumps. Analysts have been predicting stocks would idle after such a strong run, and some saw investor caution at work.

"There is a lot of concern that the market has moved too far too fast and that we've gotten ahead of the economy," said Brian Bush, director of equity research at Stephens Inc.

But the Commerce Department's report of

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

an increase in consumer spending and the National Association of Realtors' report of a rise in pending home sales provided evidence that the economy could be stabilizing. And Caterpillar Inc. predicted that cost cuts and other efforts will enable it to turn profits in the coming years even if the economy is slow to recover. Traders follow the world's largest maker of construction and mining equipment for signals about the overall economy.

The Dow rose 33.63, or 0.4 percent, to 9,320.19. The S&P 500 index rose 3.02, or 0.3 percent, to 1,005.65, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 2.70, or 0.1 percent, to 2,011.31. The gains left stocks at new highs for the year.

Stocks jumped more than 1 percent Monday on upbeat reports on manufacturing, housing and banking.

The advance adds to the Dow's July gain of 8.6 percent that injected a stalled spring rally with new energy. The Dow is still down 34 percent from its peak in October 2007.

Traders are likely to grow a little more anxious as they await the Labor Department's report for July. Unemployment stands

at a 26-year high of 9.5 percent and is expected to eventually top 10 percent. Investors are looking for the pace of layoffs to slow so the economy can heal.

"The second half of the week is going to be heavily dominated by the employment data," said John Canally, economist at LPL Financial. "That is keeping markets hesitant."

Some analysts predict stocks will continue to climb as investors use dips to put money into the market. Recent corporate earnings reports and economic data have indicated that the nearly two-year-long recession could be ending. The Commerce Department said Tuesday that consumer spending rose 0.4 percent in June. But personal incomes dropped by 1.3 percent, the steepest slide in four years. Meanwhile, the Realtors said pending home sales for a fifth straight month in June.

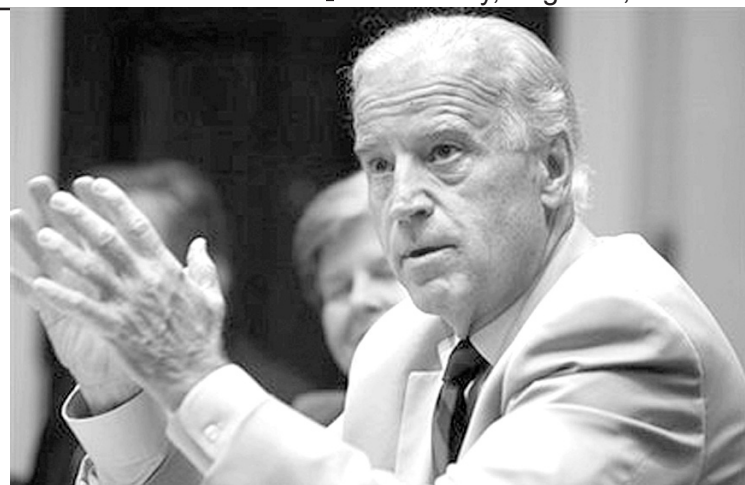
Bond prices fell, pushing the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note up to 3.69 percent from 3.64 percent late Monday.

The dollar was mixed, while gold prices rose.

Oil prices shed 59 cents to \$70.99 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Three stocks rose for every two that fell on the New York Stock Exchange. Consolidated volume rose to 5.8 billion shares from 5.7 billion Monday.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 4.96, or 0.9 percent, to 570.74.

Overseas, Britain's FTSE 100 and Germany's DAX index lost 0.2 percent, and France's CAC-40 slipped less than 0.1 percent. Japan's Nikkei stock average rose 0.2 percent. □



Vice President Joe Biden meets with members of the White House economic team to discuss the economic impact of the Recovery Act, Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington. Christina Romer, head of the president's Council of Economic Advisers is at left.

(AP Photo/Ron Edmonds)

## Biden says economic stimulus meeting its goals

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE,  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Vice President Joe Biden cited more positive economic data on Tuesday, using it to buttress the Obama administration's argument that its \$787 billion stimulus program is doing its job and revving up the economy.

"I can tell you today, without reservation, the Recovery Act is working," Biden told reporters after a White House meeting about the stimulus program with members of the administration's economic team. President Barack Obama was not present.

Nearly six months after Obama signed the stimulus program into law, the administration is trying to counter criticism, as well as perceptions, that the program has failed to create thousands of promised jobs.

Nationwide unemployment has risen every month since the stimulus took effect in February, climbing in June to a 26-year high of 9.5 percent. The July rate, which the government will announce Friday, was expected to be even higher.

Obama last week credited the stimulus for helping "put the brakes on the recession" after the Commerce Department said the economy had shrunk at a pace of just 1 percent in the second quarter. The performance was better than economists had expected, and the strongest indication to date that the economic downturn has begun to wind down.

As part of the effort to counter criticism of the stimulus, Obama and Biden were taking their economic message on the road.

Obama was headed Wednesday to hard-hit Elkhart, Ind., which depended heavily on the production of recreational vehicles and has suffered during the downturn. Biden was speaking in Detroit. At least four Cabinet secretaries also were venturing out with an economic message.

Biden cited other economic data Tuesday in making the administration's case.

He said spending by state and local governments increased 2.4 percent from April to June, after falling the prior six months. "That links directly to the fiscal relief we have provided to the states," the vice president said of the billions in stimulus money given to states.

Household income grew at a yearly rate of almost 5 percent in the same period, following declines in the previous nine months. Investments by businesses also contracted less than expected, he said.

Biden attributed increased home and car sales to government incentives: an \$8,000 tax credit for first-time home buyers and the "cash-for-clunkers" program that gives consumers up to \$4,500 to trade in their gas-guzzling vehicles for more fuel-efficient ones.

"Our critics say they don't think this program is helping," he said. □



# No go: Paramount won't show critics 'G.I. Joe'

By CHRISTY LEMIRE,  
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES — It's the biggest movie of the summer that practically no one has seen.

"G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra" opens Friday, but Paramount Pictures isn't screening the blockbuster for critics beforehand. Only a select few writers from blogs and movie Web sites have seen it for review — such as Harry Knowles, the self-professed "Head Geek" from Ain't

It Cool News — and their opinions have been mostly positive.

Instead, the studio says it's intentionally aiming the movie at the heartland, at cities and audiences outside the entertainment vortexes of New York and Los Angeles. Paramount held a screening Friday for 1,000 military service members and their families at Andrews Air Force Base; it's also focusing marketing efforts in places like Kansas City, Charlotte,



This photo released by Paramount Pictures shows the G.I. Joe team. The team from left- the members of the elite G.I. JOE team include team leader, DUKE (Channing Tatum), team commander GENERALHAWK (Dennis Quaid), BREAKER (Said Taghmaoui), a specialist in deciphering covert electronics and technology, SCARLETT (Rachel Nichols), a martial arts master and skilled in the use of the Crossbow Pistol, and RIPCORN (Marlon Wayans), an expert marksman and weapons specialist, in 'G.I. JOE: The Rise of Cobra.'

(AP Photo/Paramount Pictures, Frank Masi)

N.C., and Columbus, Ohio.

While appealing to a sense of patriotism nationwide, the plan also is inspired by the disparity that existed between the critical trashing "Transformers: Rise of the Fallen" received and the massive crowds it drew at the box office.

"'G.I. Joe' is a big, fun, summer event movie — one that we've seen audiences enjoy everywhere from Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland to Phoenix, Ariz.," said Rob Moore, vice chairman of Paramount Pictures. "After the chasm we experienced with 'Transformers 2' between the response of audiences and critics, we chose to forgo opening-day print and broadcast reviews as a strategy to promote 'G.I. Joe.' We want audiences to define this film." With a reported production budget of \$175 million and a cast that includes Dennis Quaid, Channing Tatum, Sienna Miller, Marlon Wayans and Joseph Gordon-Levitt, "G.I. Joe" follows the adventures of an elite team using high-tech spy and military equipment to take down a corrupt arms dealer. It comes from director Stephen Sommers, whose previous films include "The Mummy" and "Van Helsing."

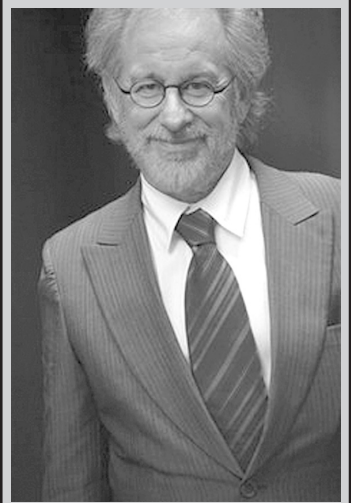
Long before anyone saw the completed product, though, "G.I. Joe" drew mixed buzz at best for its trailer, which premiered during the Super Bowl. Now it's the final action

picture of the summer — and it has a lot in common with the highest-grossing film so far this year, the "Transformers" sequel. Both are effects-laden spectacles based on Hasbro toys and both are Paramount releases from producer Lorenzo di Bonaventura.

"Transformers" has gone on to gross more than \$388 million in the United States alone since its opening six weeks ago, despite receiving just 20 percent positive reviews on the Web site Rotten Tomatoes, a critical aggregator. The withholding of "G.I. Joe" from mainstream critics suggests that the studios believe they can succeed at the box office without them.

It's a tactic normally reserved for horror movies or other genre pictures with built-in fans who don't necessarily care about reviews — ones based on video games, for example — not summer blockbusters. Still, "G.I. Joe" has been tracking well because it represents the last big bang of the season, said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com.

"They don't need (to screen) it and there's no upside to negative reviews. The film is going to open well no matter what," Dergarabedian said. "They're being very strategic in who they show the movie to. If they can win over their core audience from these reviews, that's good for the



FILE - In this April 15, 2008 file photo, Filmmaker Steven Spielberg arrives for a meeting with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, at the United Nations Headquarters, to discuss the conflict in Darfur. The National Constitution Center announced Tuesday Aug. 4, 2009 that Spielberg will be awarded Philadelphia's 2009 Liberty Medal for his artistic and humanitarian achievements.

(AP Photos/Bebeto Matthews, File)

## Spielberg to be awarded Philadelphia Liberty Medal

PHILADELPHIA — Filmmaker Steven Spielberg will be awarded Philadelphia's 2009 Liberty Medal for his artistic and humanitarian achievements on Oct. 8.

The National Constitution Center made the announcement Tuesday. Spielberg's films include "Schindler's List," "Saving Private Ryan" and "The Color Purple." He has also established a foundation to produce video and oral histories of Holocaust survivors. The center says Spielberg will donate the award's \$100,000 cash prize to that organization, Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation. The medal was established in 1988 to honor those whose actions represent the founding principles of the United States. Previous winners have included Bono, Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. □



Singer Michael Jackson's father, Joe Jackson, arrives for a memorial service in the singer's home town of Gary, Indiana July 10, 2009. The "Thriller" singer died suddenly on June 25 after suffering cardiac arrest at his rented Los Angeles mansion. Michael Jackson was 50.

REUTERS/John Gress (UNITED STATES ENTERTAINMENT OBITUARY HEADSHOT)

## Joe Jackson won't help raise son's children

LOS ANGELES — Court records show Joe Jackson doesn't plan to help raise Michael Jackson's children.

The Jackson family patriarch lives in Las Vegas and wrote in a statement filed in a Los Angeles court Monday that he only occasionally visits the family home north of Los Angeles. His two-page declaration expresses support for his wife, Katherine, who on Monday was granted permanent custody of Michael Jackson's three children.

Joe Jackson writes that his wife is "a wonderful caretaker and guardian."

A judge on Monday awarded Katherine Jackson a monthly stipend to help upkeep the family's home, where her three grandchildren are staying. □





In this Nov. 6, 2006, file photo, actor Heath Ledger arrives to the premiere of his new film 'Candy' in New York. The music video Ledger directed for 'King Rat' by Modest Mouse debuted online Tuesday Aug. 4, 2009. The six-minute, animated video is both whimsical and dark, showing whales and dolphins aboard a ship, fishing for humans in the water.

(AP Photo/Dima Gavrysh, File)

## Modest Mouse video directed by Heath Ledger debuts

LOS ANGELES – Heath Ledger's latest directorial work has been released.

The music video Ledger directed for "King Rat" by Modest Mouse debuted online Tuesday. The six-minute, animated video is both whimsical and dark, showing whales and dolphins aboard a ship, fishing for humans in the water.

It concludes with a message in white letters on a black screen: "This began with our friend, a great defender of life, and was completed in his spirit."

Ledger was 28 when he died last year. Modest Mouse announced in March that it would release the video "in honor of Heath's last piece of work as a director," according to spokeswoman Lisa Markowitz. The actor previously directed a video for one of Ben Harper's songs. □

## Hugh Jackman gets his movie musical wish



Singer Beyoncé Knowles performs with show host Hugh Jackman during the 81st Academy Awards in Hollywood, California February 22, 2009.

REUTERS/Gary Hershorn

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) – Australian actor Hugh Jackman, who this year showed the world his song-and-dance prowess as host of the Oscars, will get his wish to star in a movie musical when he plays showman P.T. Barnum in an

upcoming film.

Twentieth Century Fox said on Tuesday that Jackman will star in "The Greatest Showman on Earth," but the studio has not set a start date for production or scheduled a release for the film about the 19th century traveling circus promoter.

Jackman told Reuters in April that he wanted to star in a movie musical, a genre that hit its peak in 1930s Hollywood and has surfaced only sporadically in recent years' movies like "Hairspray" and "Mamma Mia!" While he is best known for playing superhero Wolverine in the "X-Men" movies, Jackman starred in a 1999 television movie version of the stage musical "Oklahoma!"

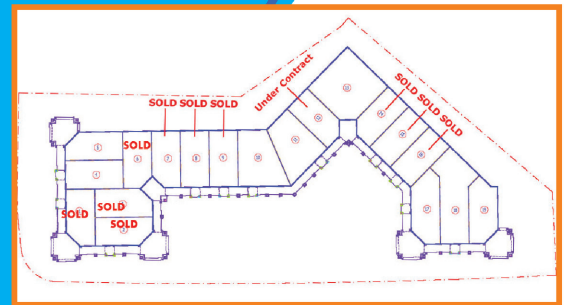
He won a Tony, Broadway's highest honor, in 2004 for his role in musical "The Boy from Oz," and his turn hosting the Tony Awards helped convince Oscar organizers to hire him as host of that Hollywood awards show this past February. □

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tributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens

with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors.

The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the common area to lounge and relax.

Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclusive to the owners.

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Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer.

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The site tour will take you up in the complex where you will enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and beach as well as a wonderful view of Oranjestad where the cruise ships are docked. The views from the rooftop terrace are stunning to say the least. The Oasis sales team is ready to assist you.

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## Web site tracks world online censorship reports



By JEANNIE NUSS,  
Associated Press Writer  
BOSTON - When Shanghai blogger Isaac Mao tried to watch a YouTube clip of Chinese police beating Tibetans, all he got was an error message. Mao thought the error — just after the one-year anniversary of a crackdown on Tibetan protesters in China — was too suspicious to be coincidental, so he reported it on a new Harvard-based Web site that tracks online censorship.

Meanwhile, more than 100 other people in China did the same thing. The spike in reports on Herdict.org in March pointed to government interference rather than a run-of-the-mill technical glitch, even before Google Inc. confirmed China was blocking its YouTube video-sharing site.

"We saw reports coming in as soon as the blocks were happening and certainly before any of the media were reporting it," Herdict founder Jonathan Zittrain said of the months-long YouTube blackout that coincided with the 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square demonstrations in June and recent ethnic riots in the

Xinjiang province.

Herdict users report their Web site problems anonymously — numeric Internet addresses are recorded but only general location is displayed — so people can post more freely, encouraging reports about sensitive topics like HIV and AIDS-related sites, and from people in countries with possible government repercussions. The site doesn't investigate reports, though, so there's no way to know for sure that an outage is related to government meddling rather than a cut cable or other problem unrelated to censorship. Although surges in reports do suggest a government role, a widespread technical glitch can also produce a similar spike. Web site inaccessibility can also result from network or server errors, firewalls at schools or offices or a new phenomenon called reverse filtering, in which companies block access to copyright-protected material outside a specific country.

Zittrain, law professor and

co-founder of Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet and Society, said Herdict does not aim to present a flawless picture of online filtering, but to let patterns of accessibility speak for themselves.

"The goal... is to gather the kind of raw data from which people can then start to gain insight and come to conclusions," he said. "With enough people asking, you start to get a sense of where there are blockages in the network."

Herdict — short for "verdict of the herd" — has spread beyond techie circles to garner users in more than 140 countries, including censorship hotbeds China and Iran.

"Herdict has been buzzed (about) for months in China and now it's becoming more popular since ... Google.com was blocked for hours and Twitter.com was blocked twice recently," Mao said in an e-mail.

In Iran, Herdict users have logged unsuccessful attempts to access Twitter and other social-networking sites that

have been blocked since the country's controversial June 12 presidential election.

Herdict users like that the site fosters a sense of community among those who can't fully navigate the Web and provides them with hope for a freer Internet. "It gives people a sense how many people share the same blackout regionally or globally," Mao said. "You are not alone."

Before, someone might complain about a block via a single Facebook or Twitter update, but that information often doesn't go beyond a small group of friends.

Zittrain started Herdict in February — a month before China's block began — to aggregate reports of online inaccessibility and help users detect government censorship on the Web as soon as it happens. Having tracked online censorship since the early 2000s, he wanted to put Web accessibility at the fingertips of those who use it most, rather than a handful of experts. □



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## Experience Papillon's gripping story! Introducing a catching special for the early Birds

PALM BEACH – Henri Charrière, one of the world's most famous prisoners, would surely have had the time of his life at Papillon Restaurant in The Village, across from the Radisson Resort. Nicknamed Papillon because of the butterfly tattoo on his chest, the Frenchman was the first convict to escape from Devil's Island, something that nobody had ever done before. Charrière's thrilling, gripping...

auto-biography has been the concept behind Papillon Restaurant. The décor, the decorations and especially the restrooms wink at the thirteen terrible years Papillon spent in prison in French Guyana. Papillon restaurant's menu reflects the Frenchman's arduous journey to freedom: classic French dishes have been dusted with daring Caribbean flair and are a culinary journey for your taste buds. The spacious outside terrace is perfect for casual fine dining; the iron bars, flecks of rust and stains on the walls make one very glad not to be in Papillon's shoes in the 1940's! Charrière would undoubtedly have loved 'his' place on Aruba: this is luxury living for anyone!

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Papillon Restaurant offers a daily Early Bird special. A delicious 3-course meal with a glass of house wine for just \$29.75 per person between 5pm and 7pm

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Papillon's opening hours are from 5 pm until midnight. The restaurant's daily specials will be explained by the staff. For reservations, please call 586 5400 or go to [www.papillonaruba.com](http://www.papillonaruba.com).

Papillon Restaurant is located in The Village, just across from the Radisson Resort.

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## Café de Pijp opens its doors at South Beach Center – Palm Beach!

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PALM BEACH – Last week, Café de Pijp officially inaugurated its authentic “OUD HOLLANDS CAFÉ” conveniently located at the South Beach Center in Palm Beach opposite Segafredo. Café de Pijp has been operating since June 19th and has now made the opening official with various members of the press and guests. All guests received a warm welcome from the management in a nice and cozy ambiance with entertainment of the band The Equator.

Café de Pijp has been designed and founded by Mr. Alex de Haan. He has a

lot of experience with this kind of specific Oud Hollands Café in the Netherlands. The interior of Café de Pijp, which is almost 60 m2, has been constructed with dark wood materials which give the ambiance a very cozy and warm feeling.

They play all kinds of music, from Dutch, to English to Latin American. Every day you can enjoy the peanut consumption with your favorite drink. This peanut concept “Pelpinda's” is a typical Dutch custom, where the guests of the Dutch bar peel their peanuts and throw the shells on the floor and enjoy doing it! When entering the Dutch bar and encountering all the peanut shells on the floor, don't be surprised, as this is one of the most common custom for a typical Old Dutch Bar in the Netherlands.

Café de Pijp will have several activities programmed for its guests in the near future. These activities include Dart competitions among other cafes and guests, Karaoke nights, Jazz nights and Salsa nights. **Café de Pijp serves delicious snacks for its guests and invites their customers to enjoy these snacks free of charge on Friday afternoons.** Café de Pijp will also have their “Pijpjesavond” where one can buy beer at a very inexpensive price. Café de Pijp will also offer



a special drink of the week for the non beer drinkers. **Heineken draught beer will have a price of only AWG 5,- every day.**

For one month Café de Pijp will have a special Grand Opening offer in newspapers. Bring the newspaper ad and get a FREE Heineken draught beer with this ad per person. Do not miss this special offer, just bring it to Café de Pijp and enjoy your FREE beer in a typical “OUD HOLLANDS CAFÉ” Café

de Pijp offers its customers very attractive consumption prices compared to other bars in the vicinity, a great ambiance and LIVE entertainment by Alex as well!

**We invite you to visit us at the South Beach Center and experience the fun yourself! For more information please call us at 745-4706.**





In this photo released by Korean Central News Agency via Korea News Service in Tokyo, former U.S. President Bill Clinton, seated left, meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, seated right, in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009. Others are unidentified.

*Associated Press*

## Clinton, two journalists depart N.Korea for U.S.

JEAN H. LEE

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — His mission accomplished, former President Bill Clinton left Pyongyang early Wednesday accompanied by American journalists Euna Lee and Laura Ling after North Korean leader Kim Jong Il pardoned the women from their 12-year prison sentences.

Clinton and the two Californians were flying back to the U.S., his spokesman Matt McKenna said, less than 24 hours after the former U.S. leader landed in the North Korean capital on a private, humanitarian trip to secure their release.

Clinton has “safely left North Korea with Laura Ling and Euna Lee” and all three were en route to Los Angeles, where the journalists will be reunited with their families, he said.

The White House had no comment.

Their departure was a jubilant conclusion to a more than four-month ordeal for the women arrested near the North Korean-Chinese border in March and sentenced in June to 12 years of hard labor for illegal entry and engaging in “hostile acts.”

Clinton’s landmark trip to Pyongyang also

resulted in rare talks with reclusive Kim Jong Il that state-run media described as “wide-ranging” and “exhaustive.” The meeting was Kim’s first with a prominent Western figure since reportedly suffering a stroke nearly a year ago.

North Korean media characterized the women’s release as proof of “humanitarian and peace-loving policy.” State media said Clinton apologized on behalf of the women and relayed President Barack Obama’s gratitude. The report said the visit would “contribute to deepening the understanding” between North Korea and the United States.

While the White House emphasized the private nature of Clinton’s trip, his landmark visit to Pyongyang to free the Americans was a coup that came at a time of heightened tensions over North Korea’s nuclear program.

The meeting also appeared aimed at dispelling persistent questions about the health of the authoritarian North Korean leader, who was said to be suffering from chronic diabetes and heart disease before the reported stroke.

Kim smiled broadly for a photo standing next to a towering Clinton.

*Continued on Page B6*

## Cruise line calls missing Alaska passenger suicide



Small boats from the Holland America Lines ship Zaandam bring passengers ashore in Sitka, Alaska on Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009. Earlier, law enforcement officials boarded the ship as part of an investigation into the death of a passenger who went overboard near Juneau, Alaska. The Zaandam, anchored in the background, is obscured by smoke from wildfires hundreds of miles away in Canada.

*Associated Press*

MARK THIESSEN

Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Alaska authorities conducted interviews and reviewed security camera footage Tuesday aboard a cruise ship after the body of a passenger turned up in the icy waters off an island near the capital.

*Continued on Page B5*



Colombia’s President Alvaro Uribe, left, speaks as acting Defense Minister Gen. Freddy Padilla looks on during a press conference at a military base in Bogota, Wednesday, July 8, 2009. Uribe said the government authorizes Senator Piedad Cordoba to help with the release of all hostages held by rebels of Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

*Associated Press*

## Colombia’s Uribe on trip to defend U.S. bases pact

VIVIAN SEQUERA

Associated Press Writer

BOGOTA (AP) — President Alvaro Uribe headed off on a whirlwind South American tour Tuesday to defend his plans to expand the U.S. military’s presence in Colombia, a prospect that worries even friendly nations in the region.

*Continued on Page B9*





President Barack Obama, marking his 48th birthday, takes a break from his official duties to bring birthday greetings to veteran White House reporter Helen Thomas, left, who shares the same birthday and turns 89, Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009, in the White House Press Briefing Room in Washington. Helen Thomas has covered every president since John F. Kennedy.

Associated Press



# Obama visits White House press room on birthday

By BEN FELLER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — You say it's your birthday. It's my birthday, too. On the day he turned 48, President Barack Obama decided to splash a little celebration on someone with whom he shares the birthday: legendary White House correspondent Helen Thomas, now a columnist with Hearst Newspapers. She turned 89 on Tuesday.

Obama emerged unannounced in the White House briefing room where Thomas sat in the front-row seat reserved in her name. He led the roomful of reporters in singing "Happy Birthday to You," gave a plate full of cupcakes to Thomas, watched her blow out one lit candle and sat down next to her to share a smiling photo.

The president said Thomas wished for peace and no prejudice in the world and — working in a plug for his agenda — a health care reform bill.

And then he left without taking questions about his own birthday plans or anything else.

Obama had just spent lunch with almost the

entire Democratic Senate caucus. Leaders emerged promising to deliver the health care bill Obama wants.

"We're ready to take on the world," Sen. Harry Reid said, offering a glowing assessment of Obama's pep talk.

The president was born in 1961 in Hawaii, a fact state officials have confirmed again and again to address claims of so-called "birthers" who say the president was actually born outside the United States. The Constitution says that a person must be a "natural-born citizen" to be eligible for the presidency.

The White House said Obama did much of his birthday celebrating over the weekend, hanging with friends and family at Camp David.

But that didn't stop some schoolkids on a tour of the White House from trying to get Obama's attention on the actual birthday itself.

From the steps of the North Portico, they broke out in their own version of "Happy Birthday to You" for the president, and were heard all the way to Pennsylvania Avenue □

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# U.S. to build \$30M border center in Michigan

JEFF KAROUB

Associated Press Writer

HARRISON TOWNSHIP, Michigan (AP) — The U.S. government is building an intelligence gathering center designed to help detect smuggling, terrorism and other crime across the long and liquid Great Lakes border between the U.S. and Canada, authorities said Tuesday.

The \$30 million Operational Integration Center at Selfridge Air National Guard Base is the first center of its kind on the northern border and is expected to open next May. It will analyze and act on aircraft video, border camera images and other information from

several federal, state and local agencies.

Officials say the center eventually should incorporate data from satellites, unmanned aircraft and other sources, and provide real-time information from across the entire Great Lakes border.

The base is in Harrison Township, 20 miles northeast of Detroit.

The Department of Homeland Security has several centers that gather and share law enforcement resources along the U.S.-Mexico border.

But officials said Tuesday that the Michigan operation will be a big boost for the northern border, which is nearly

twice as long as its southern counterpart and historically has received fewer resources despite threats such as the smuggling of drugs, people and weapons.

The center, which will be housed in a vacant 9,000-square-foot building on base, is the government's next step in efforts to secure the border. Federal agencies already cooperate at Selfridge, where the Great Lakes Air and Marine Branch officially opened in July 2008. Great Lakes is the fifth and final branch of the Northern Border Air Wing mandated by Congress after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. □



U.S. Rep. Candice Miller, R-Mich., center, talks with U.S. Border Patrol officers near a U.S. Customs and Border Protection Blackhawk helicopter at Selfridge Air National Guard Base after a news conference Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009 in Harrison Township, Mich.

Associated Press



In this March 12, 2009 file photo, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington. The Obama administration is refusing to release government records on its 'cash-for-clunkers' rebate program that would substantiate — or undercut — White House claims of the program's success, even as the president presses the Senate for a quick vote for \$2 billion to boost car sales.

By JOAN LOWY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON

— Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said Tuesday he will convene a summit of experts to figure out what to do about driver cell phone use and texting, practices that studies — and a growing number of accidents — show can be deadly.

LaHood said he intends to gather senior transportation officials, safety advocates, law enforcement representatives, members of Congress and academics who study distracted driving for the summit next month in Washington.

"The public is sick and tired of people being distracted and causing accidents," LaHood told a news conference. "We all know texting while driving is dangerous and we are going

to do something about it so that responsible drivers don't have to worry about it when they or a loved one get on the road."

If it were up to him, he would ban texting while driving, LaHood said.

However, past safety initiatives like seat belts have shown that a simple ban often isn't enough to get drivers to change their habits unless it's accompanied by education and enforcement, he said.

LaHood said he expects the summit to produce several recommendations for specific actions to address the problem.

He pointed to several fatal incidents involving texting, including Alyssa Burns, a 17-year-old Eureka, Ill., high school student killed in June when she drove off the road

## Administration to examine distracted driving

while sending a message to friends The problem crosses over into other modes of transportation: A train crashed last year in California killing 25 people — including the train operator, who was texting at the time of the accident — and injuring 135.

In a study released last week, the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute found that when drivers of heavy trucks texted, their collision risk was 23 times greater than when not texting. Dialing a cell phone and using or reaching for an electronic device increased risk of collision about six times in cars and trucks.

The Virginia Tech researchers said the risks of texting generally applied to all drivers, not just truckers.

A separate report by Car and Driver magazine found that texting and driving is more dangerous than drunken driving.

The Governors Highway Safety Association, which represents state highway safety agencies, has said it does not doubt the dangers of texting and driving but does not support a ban because it would be difficult to enforce.

"There are a variety of challenges with distracted driving, and we commend the secretary for leading the effort to address this important highway safety issue," Barbara Harsha, the

safety association's executive director, said in a statement.

The association "is particularly interested in strategies for enforcing texting and cell phone bans as well as technological applications that would limit or eliminate distractions," she said.

Texting has grown from nearly 10 billion messages a month in December 2005 to more

than 110 billion in December 2008, according to CTIA, the cellular phone industry's trade group.

Fourteen states and the District of Columbia have passed laws making texting while driving illegal. A group of Democratic members of Congress introduced legislation last week to impose a national ban on texting while driving. □

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# 'Clunkers' rebates look likely for another month

KEN THOMAS,  
LAURIE KELLMAN,  
Associated Press Writers  
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Roadblocks disappearing, the Senate cleared the way Tuesday for a vote giving eager car buyers until Labor Day to cash in on rebates up to \$4,500 for trading in their gas-guzzlers for new, higher-mileage models.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid declared he had the votes to pass a \$2 billion "cash for clunkers" measure already approved by the House. It would replenish the all-but-exhausted \$1 billion program and provide rebates for up to a half-million more Americans in the next month.

Despite reservations, Reid's Republican counterpart, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, predicted his party would not block a vote and "the matter will be completed."

"I think the last thing any politician wants to do is cut off the opportunity for somebody who wants to get a rebate to



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev., second from left, accompanied by fellow Democratic senators talk to reporters about their lunch with President Obama, Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009, outside the White House in Washington. From left are: Senate Banking Committee Chairman Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn.; Reid; Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.; and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont.

buy a new automobile," said Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, a former Republican congressman from Illinois. Senate passage would send the legislation to the White House

for President Barack Obama's signature and guarantee there would be no interruption in the program that has sent buyers streaming into formerly deserted auto showrooms.

*Associated Press*

Republicans were still seeking a chance to amend the House version that would extend the program into September, but Democrats were confident the bill wouldn't be changed. Labor Day will be celebrated in the U.S. on Sept. 7 this year.

"We'll pass 'cash for clunkers' before we leave here," Reid said after Democrats lunched at the White House with Obama, who has vigorously pushed the extension as a much-needed boost for the economy. Asked whether he had the votes to pass the measure, Reid replied, "Yes." What Democrats don't have is much time. Obama said that demand would drain the program of its initial \$1 billion by Friday. That's also the day senators are to embark on their month-long August recess.

Republicans said they were still negotiating with Reid for the chance to offer changes to the legislation. But McConnell said, "I would anticipate that the matter will be completed some time before the end of the week."

Under the program, buyers of new cars and trucks can get rebates of \$3,500 to \$4,500 by trading in older models that are then scrapped.

The popular program has allowed about a quarter-million Americans to buy new

cars at time when the economy is still in recession and needs a boost in consumer spending. On Monday, the White House had warned that the program could come to an abrupt halt Friday if the Senate didn't pass the House bill. The legislation would transfer \$2 billion from an economic stimulus account that had been set aside to subsidize renewable energy. The new money would carry the program through September, said White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs. Through early Tuesday, the clunkers program had recorded 157,000 transactions worth \$664 million. Eighty-three percent of the vehicles traded in were trucks or SUVs, while 60 percent of the vehicles purchased were passenger cars, for an average increase in fuel efficiency of 61 percent, Gibbs said.

Opposition to extending the program has been dissipating. One vocal Republican critic, South Carolina Sen. Jim DeMint, said Tuesday he would not try to block the legislation. And three lawmakers who wanted the program limited to the purchase of even more fuel-efficient vehicles said Monday they would back the plan.

Yet Democrats as well as Republicans have raised concerns. Senators in both parties have said it costs too much. Some Democrats have argued that the program should require tougher emissions standards for the new vehicles. Republicans have said it puts the government in the bad position of picking winners and losers.

"People want to know what's going to be next. Cash for shoes? Cash for groceries?" said Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala. Car companies have credited the clunkers program with driving up sales in late July. Ford said its sales rose 2.4 percent in July from the same month last year, its first year-over-year increase since November 2007, while Chrysler Group LLC posted a smaller year-over-year sales drop compared with recent months, helped by the special deals. Other automakers are doing better, too. □

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Pa: Roland W. Peterson

*Shivering in the cold  
We hold hands  
Feeling young  
and not old*

*Calypso music  
ring out in our hearts  
Thoughts drift  
far away  
To the island we love*

*Reminiscing of the  
Golden sunsets  
Forty two years ago  
When we said yes*

*Now we are longing  
to be on the island  
We love  
The sunsets we cherish  
The white sand between our toes  
Oh... that's the way it goes*

*No clouds  
No golden lining  
Just a magnificent golden  
ball edging into the blue  
Your heart for me  
My heart for you.*





# NY police: Wrong-way crash driver was drunk, high

By FRANK ELTMAN

Associated Press Writer

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. — A mother drank vodka and smoked marijuana while taking a vanload of children home from a weekend camping trip that ended in disaster when she went the wrong way on a highway and crashed into an SUV, killing eight people, police said Tuesday.

Diane Schuler, who died along with her 2-year-old daughter and three nieces in her red minivan, had more than 10 drinks of alcohol in her system and a high level of the main ingredient in marijuana, authorities said. A broken 1.75-liter bottle of Absolut vodka was found in her wrecked minivan, police said.

The revelations from the 36-

year-old Long Island woman's autopsy helped explain how the woman her family called "an accomplished working mother who always put her children before any other priorities" wound up driving the wrong way for nearly two miles on a suburban parkway before slamming into the SUV.

The July 26 crash on the Taconic State Parkway, about 35 miles northwest of New York City, also killed three men in the SUV. Schuler's 5-year-old son, in her minivan, survived.

Investigators said Schuler had been driving erratically on other upstate roads before getting on the highway for the 140-mile trip home.

Schuler's blood-alcohol level was well above the legal limit, and she still had undigested

alcohol in her stomach, State Police Maj. William Carey said Tuesday.

Blood tests also showed she had smoked marijuana 15 minutes to an hour before the crash, said Betsy Spratt, chief toxicologist for the Westchester County medical examiner.

"With that level of alcohol ... she would have had difficulty with perception, with her judgment, with her memory," Spratt said. "You start to get what we call tunnel vision."

Police said no criminal charges were planned in the case.

Roseann Guzzo, whose father and brother were killed in the SUV, said Tuesday her family wanted to meet with prosecutors to discuss the case.

"We're outraged by it," she



In this July 26, 2009 file photo, New York State troopers work at the scene of a fatal accident in which eight people were killed on the Taconic Parkway in Hawthorne, N.Y. A Long Island mother was drunk and high on marijuana when she drove the wrong way for almost two miles on a highway before smashing head-on into an SUV, killing herself and seven others, a prosecutor said Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009.

Associated Press

said. "It's a choice she made. And that choice she made to us is like she committed murder."

State police have been investigating why Schuler, who was a regular upstate campground visitor, would have been driving toward her home the wrong way on a highway she had driven many times before.

Toxicology reports found the businesswoman's blood-alcohol level was 0.19, more than twice the state's legal limit of 0.08, Carey said. She also had 6 grams of undigested alcohol in her stomach, Carey said. Schuler's husband, Daniel, told investigators that everything seemed fine when he and his wife left the Sullivan County campground at about 9:30 a.m. on the morning of the crash. He went on a fishing trip while his wife

headed home with the children, stopping at a McDonald's on the way, police said.

Her brother, the father of the three girls who died, said she called him about a half-hour before the wreck sounding disoriented and saying she didn't feel well. Schuler's 8-year-old niece also spoke briefly with her father from the highway. The woman's cell phone was later found abandoned at a rest stop.

Witnesses said they saw Schuler's minivan straddling two lanes and tailgating, with its headlights flashing and horn beeping.

Others saw the vehicle veering from one lane to another, and one witness said it appeared as if she was attempting to pass him on the shoulder of the highway. Another witness said the van drove across a grass divider at a service area. □

## ALASKA SUICIDE

Continued from Page B1

The passenger aboard the Zaandam, Amber Malkuch, 45, appeared to have committed suicide, a cruise ship spokeswoman said. Her body was found Monday just off Douglas Island. The Washington state resident had been reported missing earlier in the day.

"Based on evidence and information to date, it does not appear to be foul play," Holland America spokeswoman Sally Andrews said from Seattle.

"From what we have seen to date, it appears to be a suicide."

Alaska State Troopers spokeswoman Megan Peters said troopers were not yet willing to conclusively point to a cause of death. An autopsy will be conducted in Anchorage, authorities said.

"We still have to do our investigation, and we're not going to make any guesses at this time," Peters said.

Officers interviewed passengers and reviewed footage from the Zaandam's security cameras after the ship docked in Sitka, Peters said.

The Coast Guard confirmed the identity with an ID found

on the body, said Petty Officer Jon-Paul Rios.

Malkuch was reported missing by a traveling companion Monday morning when the Zaandam was in Glacier Bay National Park, northwest of Juneau.

She was last seen about 12:30 a.m. local time after she ordered room service, when the vessel was near Douglas Island. Malkuch's body was found after a search stretching over 80 miles.

The crew of a commercial

helicopter operated by Ketchikan-based TEMSCO Helicopters that was helping in the search found the body about 12 miles northwest of where the passenger was last seen, Chief Petty Officer Dana Warr said.

Warr said there was no immediate sign that any of the Zaandam's survival gear was missing.

The 780-foot-long Zaandam can carry about 1,430 passengers and 600 crew members. □

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In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, the two female American journalists, far left, and second right, head to a chartered plane carrying the homebound former President Bill Clinton at an airport in Pyongyang, capital of North Korea Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2009. His mission accomplished, former President Bill Clinton left Pyongyang early Wednesday accompanied by American journalists Euna Lee and Laura Ling after North Korean leader Kim Jong Il pardoned the women from their 12-year prison sentences.

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R	THE HANGOVER			
	daily:	5:15	7:30	10:00
	matinee:	12:55	3:00	late show: 12:15
PG-13	TRANSFORMER 2			
	daily:	6:10	9:00	
	matinee:	12:20	3:20	late show: 12:00
PG-13	I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER			
	daily:	8:00	10:20	
	matinee:			late show: 12:30
PG-13	YEAR ONE			
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CLINTON

Continued rom Page B1

He was markedly thinner than a year ago, with his graying hair cropped short. The once-pudgy 67-year-old, who for decades had a noticeable pot belly, wore a khaki jumpsuit and appeared frail and diminutive in a group shot seated next to a robust Clinton.

North Korea accused Ling, 32, and Lee, 36, both of former Vice President Al Gore's Current TV media venture, of sneaking into the country illegally.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton urged North Korea last month to grant them amnesty, saying they were remorseful and their families were anguished by their detention.

The journalists' release followed weeks of quiet negotiations between the State Department and the North Korean mission to the United Nations, said Daniel Sneider, associate director of research at Stanford University's Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center.

Clinton "didn't go to negotiate this, he went to reap the fruits of the negotiation," Sneider said.

Pardoning Ling and Lee and having Clinton serving as their emissary served both North Korea's need to continue maintaining that the two women had committed a crime and the Obama administration's desire not to expend diplomatic capital winning their freedom, Sneider said.

"Nobody wanted this to be a distraction from the more substantially difficult issues we have with North Korea," he said. "There was a desire by the administration to resolve this quietly and from the very beginning they didn't allow it to become a huge public issue." The families of Ling and Lee said they were "overjoyed" by the pardon.

"We are so grateful to our government: President Obama, Secretary Clinton and the U.S. State Department for their dedication to and hard work on behalf of American citizens," the families said in a statement. "We especially want to thank President Bill Clinton for taking on such an arduous

mission and Vice President Al Gore for his tireless efforts to bring Laura and Euna home.

"We are counting the seconds to hold Laura and Euna in our arms," the statement said.

Lee, a South Korean-born U.S. citizen, is the mother of a 4-year-old. Ling, a California native, is the younger sister of Lisa Ling, a correspondent for CNN as well as "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and "National Geographic Explorer."

They were arrested as they reported about the trafficking of women. It's unclear if they strayed into the North or were grabbed by aggressive border guards who crossed into China but recent statements suggested they admitted to deliberately crossing into the country.

The Committee to Protect Journalists also welcomed their release.

North Korean state media said Clinton and Kim held wide-ranging talks, adding that Clinton "courteously" conveyed a verbal message from Obama.

In Washington, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs denied Clinton went with a message from Obama. "That's not true," he told reporters.

"While this solely private mission to secure the release of two Americans is on the ground, we will have no comment" until the mission is complete, Gibbs said in a statement. "We do not want to jeopardize the success of former President Clinton's mission."

Clinton was accompanied by John Podesta, his one-time White House chief of staff, who also is an informal adviser to Obama.

Clinton was accorded honors typically reserved for heads of state. Senior officials, led by Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan, who also serves as the regime's chief nuclear negotiator, met his private unmarked plane as it arrived Tuesday morning.

Video from the APTN television news agency showed Clinton exchanging warm handshakes with officials and accepting a bouquet of flowers from a schoolgirl.

Kim later hosted a banquet for Clinton at the state guesthouse, Radio Pyongyang and the Korean Central Broadcasting

Station reported. The VIPs and Kim posed for a group shot in front of the same garish mural depicting a stormy seaside landscape that Clinton's secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, posed for during her historic visit to Pyongyang in 2000.

But not long ago, North Korea's Foreign Ministry had harsh words for his wife, describing her as "a funny lady" who sometimes "looks like a primary schoolgirl and sometimes a pensioner going shopping."

In the past, envoys have been dispatched to Pyongyang to secure the release of Americans. In the 1990s, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, a congressman at the time, went twice on similar missions: in 1994 to arrange the freedom of a U.S. pilot whose helicopter strayed into North Korean airspace and again two years later to fetch an American detained for three months on spying charges.

Richardson, Clinton and Gore, Clinton's vice president, had all been named as possible envoys to bring back Lee and Ling. However, the decision to send Clinton was kept quiet, revealed only when he turned up Tuesday in Pyongyang.

The trip was reminiscent of one 15 years ago by former President Jimmy Carter when Clinton was in office, also at a time of tensions over North Korea's nuclear program.

Carter's visit — he met with Kim Jong Il's father, the late Kim Il Sung — helped thaw the deep freeze in relations with the Korean War foe and paved the way for discussions on nuclear disarmament. Clinton later sent Albright to Pyongyang for talks with Kim in a high point in the often rocky relations with North Korea. Discussions about normalizing ties went dead when George W. Bush took office in 2001 with a hard-line policy on Pyongyang. The Obama administration has expressed a willingness to hold bilateral talks — but only within the framework of the six-nation disarmament talks in place since 2003.

North Korea announced earlier this year it was abandoning the talks involving the two Koreas, Japan, Russia, China and the U.S. □





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# Haitian police clash with workers seeking pay hike

By JONATHAN M. KATZ  
Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti – Haitian police fired tear gas at protesters outside Parliament Tuesday who demanded an increase in the minimum wage, saying they are unable to feed and shelter their families on less than \$2 a day.

As legislators prepared to vote on the issue Tuesday, some of the 2,000 protesters threw rocks at police and began ripping down flags of U.N. member countries near the building. Most of the crowd dispersed hours before lawmakers were scheduled to meet, with no arrests and only one reported injury. But the issue remains inflammatory.

In May, Parliament approved a proposal to nearly triple the minimum wage, but President Rene Preval refused to publish it into law. He said the increase should omit workers at factories producing garments for export. Preval said those workers should receive an increase to about \$3.

The debate has fueled unrest across the impoverished

Caribbean nation, with some critics arguing that an increase would hurt plans to fight rampant unemployment by creating jobs in factories that produce clothing for export to the United States.

Many of the protesters were minimum-wage factory workers, such as Banel Jeune, a 29-year-old father who sews sleeves on shirts. “Seventy gourdes, that doesn’t do anything for me,” he said, referring to his current minimum-wage salary. “I can’t feed my kids, and I can’t send them to school.”

Lawmakers have pledged to resubmit the proposal without any changes, raising the minimum wage to about \$5 a day.

Lesly Antoine, a 32-year-old who lost his job with the state-run telephone company, said Preval’s “compromise offer is no compromise at all.”

Former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was overthrown in 2004, in part after business owners angered by his approval of an increased minimum



Demonstrators hold a sign that demands a minimum wage increase to 200 gourdes, or about \$5, during a protest in Port-au-Prince, Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009. Protesters demanded an increase in the minimum wage, saying they are unable to feed and shelter their families on less than \$2 a day.

Associated Press

wage organized opposition against him.

Despite the heated debate, few people would be affected by the wage increase or anticipated job losses.

Most of Haiti’s 9 million people who are employed work on small farms or sell basic goods on the street. Only some 250,000 people have jobs regulated by the minimum salary law, said

lawmaker Steven Benoit, who sponsored the bill.

Many in the international community who view garment factories as the way to boost Haiti’s economic development oppose the increase.

With new trade advantages that allow for duty-free exports of clothing to the U.S., such factories could provide “several hundred thousand jobs to Haitians

... over a period of just a few years,” according to a report submitted to the U.N. in January.

But the U.N. report said that plan requires costs must be kept down. □





# Police beat women opposing Sudan dress code trial



Sudanese journalist Lubna Hussein, right, who faces 40 lashes on the charge of “indecent dressing”, flashes a victory sign to her supporters as she enters the court in Khartoum Tuesday Aug. 4, 2009, where she is going on trial for wearing trousers in public, a violation of the country’s strict Islamic laws. Arabic slogan read as “No, for exporting our rights by the name of law”.

*Associated Press*

**MOHAMED OSMAN, SARAH EL DEEB,**  
Associated Press Writers  
KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Sudanese police fired tear gas and beat women protesting at the trial Tuesday of a female journalist who faces a flogging for wearing trousers in public. Sudanese journalist Lubna Hussein could receive 40 lashes if found guilty of violating the

country’s indecency law which follows a strict interpretation of Islam. The 43-year-old says the law is un-Islamic and “oppressive,” and she’s trying to use her trial to rally support to change it. “I am not afraid of flogging. ... It’s about changing the law,” Hussein said, speaking to The Associated Press after a hearing Tuesday.

Hussein said she would take the issue all the way to Sudan’s constitutional court if necessary, but that if the court rules against her and orders the flogging, she’s ready “to receive (even) 40,000 lashes” if that what it takes to abolish the law.

Hussein was among 13 women arrested July 3 in a raid by the public order police on a popular cafe in Khartoum. Ten of the women were fined and flogged two days later. But Hussein and two others decided to go to trial.

In an attempt to rally support, Hussein printed invitations to diplomats, international media, and activists to attend her trial which opened last week. She also resigned from her job in the U.N.’s public information office in Khartoum, declining the immunity that went along with the job to challenge the law.

Around 100 supporters, including many women in trousers as well as others in traditional dress, protested outside the court Tuesday. Witnesses said police wielding batons beat up one of Hussein’s lawyers, Manal Awad Khogali, while keeping media and cameras at bay. No injuries were immediately reported.

“We are here to protest against this law that oppresses women and debases them,” said one of the protesters, Amal Habani, a female columnist for the daily Ajraas Al Hurria, or Bells of Freedom in Arabic.

While the police broke up

the demonstration outside the Khartoum Criminal Court, the judge adjourned Hussein’s trial for a month to clarify whether her resignation has been accepted by the United Nations.

The 1991 indecency law was adopted by Sudan’s Islamic regime which came to power after a coup led by President Omar al-Bashir in 1989. It follows a strict interpretation of Islamic law that imposes physical punishment on “those who commit an indecent act that violates public morale; or who dress indecently.”

Trousers are considered indecent under the law. Activists and lawyers say it is implemented arbitrarily, and leaves the definition of “indecent acts” up to the implementing police officer.

Hussein said the law is unconstitutional, and is not supported by Islamic text. Flogging is a common punishment for drinking and making alcohol, and whatever else the law enforcer deems indecent. Recently, a famous Sudanese singer, who took to the stage under the influence of alcohol, was flogged.

“Flogging is an insult to human dignity,” Hussein said. “If the (rulers) claim this is based on Islamic Shariah (law), can anyone show me a verse in the Quran or in the prophet’s teachings that speak of flogging women because of their dress code?”

Rabie Abdel Attie, a government spokesman, called the uproar over the case

politically motivated and said only the constitutional court can decide to repeal the law.

“There is no need for all that noise.

There are clearly political motivations behind this thrust,” he said.

The public order police force patrols the streets of Khartoum, enforcing an alcohol ban and often scolding young men and women mingling in public.

Hussein said many women endure the flogging in silence, because they fear the stigma associated with being tried under the indecency law.

Hussein wore the same clothes Tuesday that she wore when arrested, including the dark-colored pants that authorities found offensive. She said she is required to wear the outfit to court so officials can see the clothing when making their decision. But Hussein said she’s also been wearing the outfit every day, even when not in court, to highlight her case.

Her trial opened last Wednesday but immediately adjourned to give her the opportunity to resign from her U.N. job.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said he was “deeply concerned” about Hussein’s case and that flogging is a violation of international human rights standards.

The U.N. Staff Union urged authorities last week not to flog Hussein, calling the punishment cruel, inhuman and degrading. □

## Iran says 3 Americans arrested for illegal entry

**NASSER KARIMI**

Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran has arrested three Americans who strayed across the border from Iraq on allegations they illegally entered the country, and a lawmaker said Tuesday that authorities are deciding whether they will be accused of spying.

Officials in northern Iraq’s Kurdish region said Sunday that the three — Shane Bauer, Sarah Shourd and Joshua Fattal — were tourists who inadvertently crossed into Iran on July 31 while hiking in the region. Friends and family say the three were adventurous travelers who accidentally stumbled into the wrong place at the wrong time. Their arrest and Iran’s accusations could spark a new standoff with the United States at a time when Iran is already mired in its worst political crisis in decades over the disputed

June 12 presidential election. Earlier this year, the two countries faced off over American-Iranian journalist Roxana Saberi, who was held for more than three months and accused of spying. Lawmaker Mohammad Karim Abedi, who heads the Iranian parliament’s National Security Committee, said on state-run Arabic television Al-Alam that he believed the three came as spies but authorities are still deciding whether there is proof to bring legal action against them.

“Surely we can say that they came as spies,” he said. “The concerned authorities will decide whether they were spies or not,” he added. “If it is proven that they were spies, the necessary legal procedures will be sought against them.” The U.S. State Department’s deputy spokesman, Robert A. Wood, dismissed the insinuations of espionage. □

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**U.S. BASES PACT**  
*Continued from Page B1*

The trip coincides with a two-day visit to Brazil of U.S. National Security Adviser James Jones.

Jones met Tuesday with President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's foreign affairs adviser, Marco Aurelio Garcia, who said afterward that the U.S. official acknowledged that Washington could have handled the issue better.

"There was recognition that the subject was not approached properly," O Globo Online quoted Garcia as saying, adding that Jones said the bases were part of the fight against drug trafficking and would also be used for humanitarian missions.

Last week, Silva said "I don't like the idea of an American military base in Colombia," while Chilean President Michelle Bachelet said countries in the region were "uneasy" about the eventuality.

Brazil's foreign minister, Celso Amorim, told the Folha

de San Paulo newspaper over the weekend that his country was worried about "a strong military presence whose objective and capacity to go a lot further than Colombia's internal needs."

Colombian officials say they hope talks next week will produce an agreement that will give U.S. forces greater access to three Colombian air bases and two naval bases. The Palanquero base in the central Magdalena valley would host U.S. Air Force counternarcotics missions that had been based in Ecuador.

The 10-year lease agreement would not boost the presence of American troops and civilian military contractors above the 1,400 currently permitted by U.S. law, the Colombians say. U.S. officials have refused to discuss details of the negotiations, although U.S. Ambassador William Brownfield has insisted that an accord would not produce U.S. bases but rather "cooperative security locations" at Colombian-run

installations.

Jones told reporters in Brasilia on Tuesday that the bases issue "will in no way interfere with the progress of our friendship and our cooperation together on matters of mutual security interest."

Uribe has put Colombia's leftist rebels on the defensive with more than \$5 billion in U.S. aid, including special forces training and the sharing of intelligence from satellite and airborne communications intercepts.

He met Tuesday with Peruvian President Alan Garcia, who said his country would "always back the fundamental work you have done."

While Colombia's ties with most of the continent have been on the whole cordial, it has feuded with Ecuador and Venezuela over their leftist leaders' alleged ties with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, which has been seeking to overthrow Bogota governments for 45 years.

Neither country is on Uribe's



Colombia's President Alvaro Uribe, right, speaks as Peru's President Alan Garcia looks on at the government palace in Lima, Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009. Uribe is in Peru for a one day visit.

*Associated Press*

itinerary.

Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez pulled his ambassador from Bogota last week after Colombia complained that three Swedish anti-tank rocket launchers bought by Venezuela's military in 1988 wound up in a FARC weapons cache seized in October.

In Caracas, Chavez said the impending deal with Washington "is turning

Colombia into an imperialist base of operations from which Venezuelan sovereignty is threatened."

President Rafael Correa of Ecuador was stung by a FARC video given to The Associated Press last month in which a rebel commander discusses making contributions to Correa's 2006 election campaign. □



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# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

### Buick ends title sponsorships with PGA Tour

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

UNDATED (AP) — Buick ended more than 50 years of PGA Tour sponsorship Tuesday when it announced that it no longer will sponsor golf tournaments in Michigan and California because of the court-ordered restructuring of parent General Motors.

The decision came two days after Tiger Woods won the Buick Open in Grand Blanc, Michigan. Woods acknowledged the end of the tournament, which he won for the third time, by heaving his golf ball toward a massive gallery after his final putt.

The additional blow came with the end of the Buick Invitational at Torrey Pines, where Woods has won a record six times. The Buick Invitational is among the top tournaments in the early part of the PGA Tour schedule because it typically is the first event on network TV and has



the highest TV rating because of Woods.

“While this is disappointing news, both the PGA Tour and Buick remain in discussions regarding future sponsorship possibilities,” Buick and the tour said in a statement.

The Buick Open will be replaced on the schedule next year by a new tournament at The Greenbrier in West Virginia, according to two officials with knowledge of the deal. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the tour does not plan to announce the new event until Wednesday. Golfweek was the first to report on The Greenbrier getting a tournament.

Buick was the oldest, continuous corporate sponsor on the PGA Tour and once had its name on four tournaments — the Buick Classic in New York, the Buick Challenge in Georgia, the Buick Open and the Buick Invitational.

*Continued on Page B12*



Ferrari driver Felipe Massa gestures as he arrives to a hospital in Sao Paulo, Monday, Aug. 3, 2009, days after suffering a life-threatening crash during qualifying at the Hungarian Grand Prix.

*Associated Press*

### Massa released from hospital in Brazil

TALES AZZONI

Associated Press Writer

SAO PAULO (AP) — Ferrari driver Felipe Massa left his Brazilian hospital Tuesday and was allowed to return to his home for the first time since a life-threatening crash in qualifying for the Hungarian Grand Prix 10 days ago.

After spending a night at the Albert Einstein Hospital in Sao Paulo, and undergoing a series of exams, doctors allowed Massa to continue his recovery process at home with his relatives.

Doctors said they reevaluated the driver’s condition and concluded there was no need to keep the 28-year-old Brazilian driver in the hospital.

Massa arrived in Brazil on Monday after nine days at the AEK military hospital in Budapest, where he underwent surgery on multiple skull fractures sustained when he was hit in the helmet by a loose part from another car and crashed into a protective tire barrier in qualifying for the Hungarian GP.

“There is no need for more surgeries,” family doctor Dino Altmann told a media conference. □

### Kobe-Shaq again on Christmas as Lakers host Cavs

NEW YORK — The NBA is bringing Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O’Neal together again for Christmas — this time joined by LeBron James.

Bryant and the defending champion Los Angeles Lakers will host the Cleveland Cavaliers on Dec. 25, one of the highlights of the 2009-10 NBA schedule released Tuesday.

It will be the fourth time in the five years since their partnership ended that Bryant and O’Neal will meet on Christmas. Traded to Cleveland in June, O’Neal will return to Los Angeles this year with James, who succeeded Bryant as MVP last season. O’Neal and James will play their first game together



in the NBA season opener, hosting the Boston Celtics on Oct. 27. The four-game slate that night concludes when the Lakers open their title defense against No. 1 draft pick Blake Griffin and the Clippers.

Defending Eastern Conference champion Orlando opens Oct. 28

against Philadelphia, then goes on the road two nights later to visit New Jersey, giving Vince Carter a quick return to his former home. The Magic will visit the Lakers for an NBA finals rematch Jan. 18 as part of the schedule on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Los Angeles will play at

Orlando on March 7 for the first time since winning the title in June.

Orlando also plays on Christmas, hosting Boston in a matchup of the last two East champions. Miami at New York, the Clippers at Phoenix and Denver at Portland round out that day’s action. □



NL Roundup

# Braun, Parra power Brewers past Dodgers 6-5

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ryan Braun had a three-run homer among his four hits, and Milwaukee closer Trevor Hoffman got Manny Ramirez on a bases-loaded fly to right to finish the Brewers' 6-5 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers in the National League on Monday.

Manny Parra pitched eight outstanding innings, but Milwaukee nearly blew a four-run lead after he gave up two hits to open the ninth. James Loney hit Hoffman's first pitch for a two-run double, and Orlando Hudson drove him home to cut Milwaukee's lead to a run.

AL Roundup

## Davis' 2-run triple wins game.

OAKLAND, California (AP) — Pinch-hitter Rajai Davis tripled down the right field line to drive in two runs in the bottom of the ninth inning and lift the Oakland Athletics to a 3-2 victory over the Texas Rangers in the American League on Monday.

C.J. Wilson (4-5) blew his third save in 16 chances after allowing singles to Jack Cust, Tommy Everidge and Mark Ellis, before Davis' triple.

Mike Wuerz (6-1) pitched 1 1-3 innings to earn the win.

Marlon Byrd drove in a run and Hank Blalock scored the game's first run on a double play for the Rangers.

A's starter Brett Anderson gave up six hits over 7 2-3 innings with eight strikeouts and three walks.

Dustin Nippert, who started in place of the injured Kevin Millwood, gave up one hit in five innings. He walked two and struck out five.

Neftali Feliz, one of the Rangers' top pitching prospects, made an impressive major league debut by striking out the side in the top of the sixth in relief of Nippert. He retired all six hitters he faced. Tigers 6, Orioles 5

At Detroit, Clete Thomas homered with two outs in the bottom of the ninth to give Detroit a victory over

After the Dodgers loaded the bases on a swinging bunt and a hit batsman, Ramirez could only manage the fly ball, keeping him without an RBI in 10 straight games.

Hoffman earned his 24th save despite giving up three hits and a run for the Brewers.

At San Diego, Mat Latos pitched seven strong innings, and fellow rookie Will Venable drove in the go-ahead run and made a run-saving catch as San Diego downed Atlanta.

Latos settled down after allowing a run in each of the first two innings. He retired 15 of 16 batters in one stretch and got a huge lift when Venable

saved at least one run in the seventh with a diving catch in right field to end the inning.

Latos (3-1) gave up Brian McCann's sacrifice fly in the first and a solo homer by Adam LaRoche in the second. He allowed two runs and six hits in his third solid start since coming up from Double-A on July 18.

Heath Bell pitched a perfect ninth for his 27th save and San Diego won for the sixth time in seven games.

Venable had three hits and put San Diego ahead 3-2 in the third with a single that scored David Eckstein, who led off with a triple.



Milwaukee Brewers' Ryan Braun (8) celebrates his three-run home run with teammate Mike Cameron (25) during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, Monday, Aug. 3, 2009, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Kenshin Kawakami (5-9) allowed three runs and eight hits in six innings as he lost for the third time in four starts.

At Cincinnati, rookie right-hand pitcher Randy Wells took a shutout into the eighth inning and Mike Fontenot hit a three-run homer off slumping Aaron Harang as Chicago downed Cincinnati.

The Cubs have gone 20-10 since July 1, and are 13-5 since the All-Star break, the best mark in the majors.

Wells (8-4) allowed six hits, including Alex Gonzalez's solo homer, over 7 1-3 innings while getting his fourth straight victory.

Fontenot homered in the second inning off Harang (5-13), who leads the majors in losses. Harang hasn't won since May 25, going 0-9 in his last 13 starts.

Carlos Marmol gave up a run-scoring double by Gonzalez in the ninth inning before retiring Willy Taveras on a grounder for his fourth save.

At Houston, Geoff Blum and Kaz Matsui homered off Matt Cain as Houston snapped the San Francisco pitcher's six-start unbeaten streak.

Blum led off the fifth with a homer, the first earned run allowed by Cain in 14 innings. That cut the Giants' lead to 2-1 and Matsui put Houston on top in the sixth with a two-run shot off the right-field foul pole.

Cain (12-3) also gave up Carlos Lee's RBI single in the eighth.

Mike Hampton (7-8) gave up eight hits, only one after the Giants took a 2-0 lead in the third. He struck out six and won for just the third time in eight starts.

Jose Valverde gave up an RBI double to Pablo Sandoval with two outs in the ninth, but earned his 13th save.

Blum's sixth homer of the season was only the second allowed by Cain in seven starts.

At New York, Mark Reynolds hit two home runs to powering Arizona past New York.

Reynolds and Miguel Montero capped Arizona's three-run first with only the second set of back-to-back homers at the new Citi Field. Reynolds added a two-run shot off Nelson Figueroa (1-1) in the second.

Gerardo Parra had three hits and drove in a run for the Diamondbacks, who nearly blew a six-run lead. Dan Haren (11-6) allowed five runs and eight hits over seven innings, and is 7-2 with a 2.44 ERA in his last 10 starts.

Daniel Murphy homered and Luis Castillo drove in two runs for New York, which has lost four of five after winning five consecutive games.

**In other NL games it was, Washington 8, Pittsburgh 4; Arizona 6, N.Y. Mets 5; Chicago Cubs 4, Cincinnati 2; Houston 4, San Francisco 3; San Diego 4, Atlanta 2; and Milwaukee 6, L.A. Dodgers 5.** □



Kansas City Royals' Alberto Callaspo, left, misses a throw from catcher Miguel Olivo as Tampa Bay Rays' Carl Crawford steals second base during the fourth inning of a baseball game Monday, Aug. 3, 2009 in St. Petersburg, Fla. The Rays beat the Royals 10-4.

Associated Press

Baltimore.

Baltimore led 5-0 with one out in the top of the first. The game was tied at 5 going into the ninth, and Danys Baez (4-5) retired the first two batters, but Thomas hit a 1-2 pitch into the shrubs above the fence in center.

Fernando Rodney (2-2) picked up the win with a scoreless inning of relief.

Brian Roberts started the game with a homer, and the next three batters singled to load the bases. After a run-scoring forceout, Ty Wigginton had a one-run double and Luke Scott added a two-run double.

Miguel Cabrera, who had a two-run double in the bottom of the first, tied the game in the fifth with his 20th homer. At St. Petersburg, Florida, Carl Crawford had three hits and three RBIs and to lead Tampa Bay past Kansas City. Crawford, who stole his league-leading 49th base, went 3 for 3 against Kansas City starter Zack Greinke (10-7) after having just one hit in 16 previous at-bats against him.

**In other AL games it was, Tampa Bay 10, Kansas City 4; Detroit 6, Baltimore 5; and Oakland 3, Texas 2.** □





Milwaukee Brewers' Ryan Braun hits a three-run home run during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, Monday, Aug. 3, 2009, in Los Angeles.

*Associated Press*

CARSON, California (AP) — Maria Sharapova took another tentative step in her comeback by beating Jarmila Groth of Australia, 6-0, 6-4, in 63 minutes Monday night at the L.A. Women's Tennis Championships.

Sharapova, absent from the tour for 10 months due to right shoulder surgery, breezed through the opening set in 20 minutes and lost just 9 points. In the second set, however, she struggled with her rebuilt serve, double-faulting twice to lose serve in the third game and falling behind, 3-1.

She regrouped by breaking Slovakian-born Groth, made it 3-all and closed the match with her fifth break of Groth's serve.

Defending champion and world No. 1 Dinara Safina hasn't run into Serena Williams lately. She has heard what the Wimbledon champion and others have had to say about her qualifications to be the top-ranked player on the WTA

Tour.

"Ranking is ranking. I didn't do the ranking system," Safina said.

Flavia Pennetta of Italy, last year's runner-up and the No. 10 seed, beat Varvara Lepchenko of the United States, 6-2, 5-7, 6-0.

However, it wasn't a good day for the other seeded players. Anna Chakvetadze of Russia beat No. 11 Virginie Razzano of France, 7-6 (5), 6-3; Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic ousted No. 15 Kaia Kanepi of Estonia, 6-3, 7-6 (4); and qualifier Jill Craybas of the U.S. upset No. 16 Francesca Schiavone of Italy, 7-6 (7), 6-2.

Safina just answered questions pleasantly.

"If she (Williams) has some questions she can give those questions to the WTA, who is doing the ranking system," Safina said. "It's just the result of how you play the whole year, not just the four Grand Slams. I've been playing

## LA Women's Championships

# Sharapova advances, Safina speaks out

the whole year and I've been having great results all through the Grand Slams. If she has some questions she can go to the WTA."

Safina, 21, was No. 9 in the rankings when she won this event a year ago. She won two more tournaments, was the silver medalist in the Olympics and a semifinalist at the U.S. Open (where she lost to Williams) and compiled a 22-7 record that included losses to Venus and Serena Williams and Elena Dementieva in the Tour Championships.

She started this year No. 3, ascended to No. 1 on April 20 and has a 47-9 record that includes three titles, four finals and two semifinals. But she lost to Serena, 6-0, 6-3, in the Australian Open final and to Venus, 6-0, 6-1, in the Wimbledon semifinals.

Serena had said before Wimbledon that everyone knew who the real No. 1 was. After winning her third Grand Slam in the past year she wondered aloud how she could not be No. 1 on the WTA computer and said, sarcastically, that "Dinara did a great job to get to No. 1, she won Rome and Madrid."

Safina said she doesn't feel any urgency to win a Grand

Slam, that "it's just a matter of time and one day it will happen."

When told that Jelena Jankovic said last week that to be No. 1 "you have to be beating the Williams sisters," Safina

smiled and shrugged and said, again, "the ranking system is not only if you beat Serena Williams and Venus Williams. It's based on how you play the whole year, and what is their record."

## BUICK

### Continued from Page B10

It also took over the Buick Championship in Connecticut for three years after its Georgia event folded.

It also had an endorsement contract with Woods, who carried its logo on his golf bag. As it headed for bankruptcy, Buick and Woods agreed last November to cut off the final year of a five-year endorsement.

The tour said it remains "very interested" in keeping a tournament in Michigan and was exploring opportunities. One of the officials said General Motors was trying to put together a consortium of sponsors to keep a tour event in Michigan, but the tour signed off on The Greenbrier before that could be pulled together.

The PGA Tour now has lost four title sponsors this year — Buick's two events, U.S. Bank in Milwaukee and Stanford Financial in Memphis, which was played in June without a sponsor. It has extended contracts with Zurich (New Orleans), Accenture (Match Play) and Travelers

(Connecticut) through 2014, and found a new title sponsor for Kapalua in SBS, which has signed up through 2020.

At least 10 other tournaments have title sponsorships that expire after 2010.

Buick had been the title sponsor at Torrey Pines since 1992. Woods missed the tournament this year — won by Nick Watney — while recovering from knee surgery.

The tournament is run by The Century Club of San Diego, and president Tom Wornham said he was optimistic about finding a new sponsor. He also said the 2010 tournament would be played regardless.

"Our Torrey Pines tournament has been fortunate to enjoy many great moments and relationships throughout its history," Wornham said in a statement. "We look forward to many more in the future. Golf is a game most enjoyed with a great partner. We have been blessed with several in our past. We look forward to announcing our next partner soon and teeing it up with you in January." □

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# Detienen aliada de Chávez que atacó TV opositora

CARACAS (Reuters) - El presidente de Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, dijo el martes que las autoridades arrestaron a una aliada radical por participar en un ataque con bombas lacrimógenas contra la sede de un canal de televisión crítico con el mandatario. Imágenes del canal mostraron como Lina Ron y varias decenas de motociclistas con boinas rojas militares como las que suele utilizar Chávez arrojaron varias granadas de humo a la sede de Globovisión en Caracas y luego se dieron a la fuga. "La compañera Lina Ron le hace daño a la revolución. Está detenida, no hay más alternativa, violó la ley (...) en un acto que es deplorable y contrarrevolucionario y le da armas al enemigo para que más me ataquen

a mí", dijo Chávez en un acto en Caracas transmitido en cadena de radio y televisión. El mandatario, que afirma liderar una revolución socialista y antiimperialista en el país petrolero, acusa a los medios privados de servir a las elites político-económicas y dice que su Gobierno debe regularlos para evitar que envenen al pueblo con sus mentiras. Sin embargo, sus críticos denuncian que el oficialismo impulsa un plan para cercenar la libertad de expresión mediante el cierre de medios de comunicación, el hostigamiento legal contra los periodistas independientes y la proliferación de medios estatales alineados con "el proceso". Globovisión, un pequeño canal de información 24



Captura en video del ataque a la sede central de la cadena Globovisión en Caracas, 3 ago 2009. Las autoridades venezolanas ordenaron el martes el arresto de Lina Ron, una aliada radical del presidente Hugo Chávez que en la víspera participó en un ataque con bombas lacrimógenas contra la sede de un canal de televisión crítico con el mandatario. REUTERS/Globovision/Handout

horas con una cobertura muy limitada en señal abierta, se ha convertido en el más visible de los enemigos mediáticos de Chávez, quien ha amenazado en varias oportunidades con sacarla del aire por ser un peligro para la salud mental de los venezolanos. □

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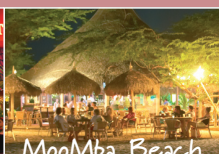
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